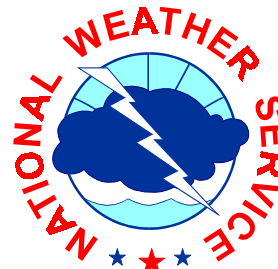


**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
WESTERN REGION
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**



JUNE 18, 2002

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Recipients of Aviation Award: I am pleased to announce the first recipients of our new Aviation Services Branch Awards. There were a lot of good nominations. The team award for the first quarter goes to the Olympic support team from the Salt Lake City Center Weather Service Unit (CWSU). Team members were Larry Burch (MIC), Robert C. Woods, Keith Goates, Jonathan Slemmer, and Kate Schlachter. The airspace requirements during the Olympics levied by the FAA kept the CWSU staff busy with special briefings for controllers covering airports within a 100-mile radius of Salt Lake City. This was no small accomplishment because of Salt Lake's rapidly changing winter weather. Additionally, the team provided weather support to the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) as they logged 550 hours of aerial photographic surveillance over 100 potential terrorist targets. Both the FAA personnel at Salt Lake Center and the CAP commander on site lauded the efforts of the CWSU team in meeting the extraordinary demands. Congratulations to the Salt Lake CWSU!

MICs/HICs Convene in Salt Lake City: From Monday, June 10 through Thursday, June 13, Western Region Headquarters held an MIC/HIC Workshop in Salt Lake City, UT. Responsibility for developing the agenda, and conducting the meeting was given to a committee consisting of WCM Dave Runyan, WFO Phoenix; WCM Tanja Fransen, WFO Glasgow; WCM John Lovegrove, WFO Eureka; SOO Mike Staudenmaier, WFO Flagstaff; Kevin Schrab, WRH SSD; Carl Gorski, WRH MSD; HAS Joe Intermill, NWRFC Portland; and Elaine Robinson, WRH Admin Assistant. NWS Deputy Director John Jones addressed the workshop and also toured WRH. The meeting covered a full range of topics, with one day devoted to IFPS implementation in which Dr. Jack Hayes, Director of Office of Science and Technology, discussed the GFE approach to producing text products. Judy Koepsel from NWSH Climate Services Division provided an overview of the climate services program. Mark Brown, NWSH Deputy CFO, updated the group on the new Collective Bargaining Agreement. Additional participants gave presentations on AHPs, a problem solving session involving MICs brainstorming solutions to difficult personnel problems, and a "best practices" session with presentations from various MICs.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

STATEMENT OF THE WEEK: This week's statement of the week is an outlook product written by MIC Larry Dunn of WFO Salt Lake City. The product discusses expected weather conditions in the first paragraph to convey the most important information first! This is an excellent example of how outlooks should be written. Good work, Larry!

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SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SALT LAKE CITY UT
244 PM MDT FRI JUN 7 2002

...WINDY AND COOLER THIS WEEKEND...

COOL AND WINDY CONDITIONS WILL SPREAD INTO NORTHWEST UTAH...EXTREME SOUTHWEST WYOMING AND EXTREME SOUTHEAST IDAHO SATURDAY. NORTHWEST WINDS OF 20-40 MPH WITH HIGHER GUSTS WILL DEVELOP OVER THE AREA. TEMPERATURES WILL BE STEADY OR FALLING SATURDAY AFTERNOON AND HIGH TEMPERATURES ON SUNDAY WILL BE 15-20 DEGREES BELOW AVERAGE. ALONG THE WASATCH FRONT THIS MEANS HIGHS IN THE 60S WITH A NORTH WIND THAT WILL MAKE IT FEEL EVEN COOLER ON SUNDAY. THE AIRMASS WILL BE COOL ENOUGH ON SUNDAY FOR SNOW SHOWERS IN THE HIGHER MOUNTAINS OF THE NORTH.

OVER SOUTHERN UTAH SATURDAY WILL BE WINDY...HOT AND DRY WITH SOUTHWEST WINDS OF 20-40 MPH WITH HIGHER GUSTS. CONDITIONS WILL BE VERY DANGEROUS IF A FIRE IS ACCIDENTALLY STARTED. COOLER BUT CONTINUED WINDY CONDITIONS WILL SPREAD ACROSS THE SOUTH ON SUNDAY.

THE BIG CHANGE IN THE WEATHER IS DUE TO AN UNSEASONABLY COLD TROUGH DROPPING INTO THE GREAT BASIN FROM THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST. A COLD FRONT WILL MOVE SOUTH TO A VERNAL TO NEPHI LINE BY SATURDAY AFTERNOON AND THEN CONTINUE SLOWLY SOUTH SATURDAY NIGHT. THE COLD FRONT WILL GET TO SAINT GEORGE SUNDAY MORNING. THIS STORM HAS PLENTY OF WIND AND COLD AIR BUT ONLY LIMITED MOISTURE. SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS WILL BE LIMITED TO THE NORTHERN PART OF UTAH...SOUTHEAST IDAHO...AND EXTREME SOUTHWEST WYOMING.

WFO San Joaquin Valley Complimented: WFO San Joaquin Valley staff were complimented by Doug Iverson, weather caster at the NBC affiliate in Bakersfield, CA. In regard to severe weather of May 20, Mr. Iverson told WCM Dan Gudgel, "You guys really did a really good job covering the severe weather up there...that was great. To turn those warnings out like you did was really on the ball. That's one thing I noticed while I was catching stuff coming down the wire...and off the Weather System 2. So good job...Hats off to you guys for being on the ball there. Its kind of tough when you get long stretches of nothing going on and all of a sudden something like that happens. So...you guys did really good! Also, I would like to thank you for information you provided me for Lightning Safety Awareness Week ... it worked out great. I did little weather lessons on air about it. Thank you for involving me in that. Thank you for the work you are doing up there!" This is an example of how important it is to develop close working relationships with our partners and customers. The outreach efforts of Dan

Gudgel, accurate warnings issued by the WFO staff, and responsive partners like Doug Iverson are necessary components of an integrated warning system that protects the citizens of San Joaquin Valley.

HYDROLOGY AND CLIMATE SERVICES DIVISION

Workshops Scheduled at Western Region RFCs: A workshop will be held at the three Western Region RFCs during the coming months. The workshops will provide training on Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS) and Ensemble Streamflow Prediction (ESP) for WFO Hydrologic Program Managers. Topics to be discussed include an overview of AHPS, the WFO role in AHPS, an overview of probability as it relates to hydrologic forecasting, how ESP forecasts are made, and how ESP forecasts may be utilized. There will also be opportunity to discuss RFC/WFO coordination and other issues of mutual interest. The CBRFC Workshop is scheduled for June 26 and 27. The workshop at the NWRFC will be held on August 7 and 8. The CNRFC workshop is scheduled for September 4 and 5.

Status of FFMP Basins: The remaining 17 offices in Western Region that have not yet received the CD containing the basins for FFMP to be loaded into AWIPS should have them by July 1, 2002. To find out which radar areas have been completed by NSSL and sent to the offices, check the following Web page:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/flashflood/ffmpinfo.shtml>, under FFMP news

Revised 1971-2000 Climate Normals: All WFOs should have received AWIPS instructions (via email), for the revised 71-00 Climate Normals. NCDC had to revise the 1971-2000 Climate Normals, in order to ensure consistency between daily, monthly, and annual values - particularly for Degree Days. This is a reminder that the revised Climate Normals are effective July 1, 2002. Please contact Andrea Bair with any questions.

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

Western Region Idea-Sharing Page: The page below is maintained by Chelsea Leader. The following list contains the current ideas on the page:

<http://ww2.wrh.noaa.gov/ssd/ideas.html>

Severe Weather Operations Plan, contributed by Tanja Fransen (5/24/02). This is an all-encompassing operational resource manual assembled by WFO Glasgow's severe weather operations team. It specifies activities to carry out before, during, and after severe weather episodes.

Method to Put Eta MOS into AWIPS, contributed by Ken Mielke (5/23/02). A program was developed to download the Eta MOS file from the Internet and separate each site in the CWA into its own product (GTFMETXXX).

Lead Forecaster Qualities and Characteristics, contributed by Jane Hollingsworth (5/14/02). This listing of Lead Forecaster characteristics was compiled from input by various MICs, primarily in the Western Region. Many of these traits are also important for other program management and supervisory positions in the NWS.

Expectations of WFO Staff, contributed by Rich Douglas (5/13/02). During an MSD program review at WFO Eureka and discussions with MIC Nancy Dean. To clearly define her expectations of WFO staff, she presented lead forecasters and HMTs/interns with a list of goals.

Promoting Weather Science among Grade School Kids, contributed by Ken Mielke (4/26/02). As we all know, there is considerable emphasis on promoting the atmospheric sciences and NWS careers among females and minorities. There are many excellent programs available. NOAA sponsors the Environmental Entrepreneurship Program, Graduate Sciences Program, etc., and the AMS, in partnership with the NWS, sponsors the Online Weather Studies Diversity Program.

Increasing Public Awareness of NWS, contributed by Kevin Baker (3/18/02).) WFO Elko has formed a marketing team with the express goal of increasing the public awareness of the National Weather Service and our Web site. The office is marketing our Web site by placing the NWS and NOAA logos with our Web address on all North Eastern area transit buses. Each sign encourages the viewer to access the latest NWS forecasts and warnings.

Running Summary of Data, contributed by Keith Meier (1/8/02). Many offices post a F-6 (Prelim Local Climo Data) data sheet to their Web pages to satisfy the quest for weather information. In addition to the F-6 data that we post to our Web page via the AWIPS Climate application, we supplement these data by generating a spreadsheet of data (using a local application to extract the daily data from the AWIPS F-6) for each month that provides a running departure from normal for the month, season, and year.

Web Based Equipment Fault Entry System, contributed by Ken Mielke (1/8/02). At WFO Great Falls, the IT team has developed a very handy Web-based equipment fault entry system. This is not a replacement for EMRS; however, it is a very useful local tool.

Training Opportunities, contributed by Keith Meier (12/21/01). Many training opportunities are missed by off-duty staff members due to rotating shift work. To alleviate this problem, an audio and video screen capturing software is utilized to record training sessions into AVI movies. This software can be used to capture any type of PC-based presentation, such as office seminars and teletraining sessions.

Orientation Checklist, contributed by John Jannuzzi (10/11/01). The Boise WFO goes through an orientation process with new employees, using a checklist as a guide. Some checklist items are unique to Boise WFO, but most are applicable to other NWS offices.

Use of WarnGen to Prepare Draft NOWCASTs. Taken from an MSD Program Review of WFO Medford, Oregon and contributed by Rich Douglas (8/30/01). WFO Medford (Mike Stavish) has localized WarnGen for preparation of NOWCASTs which is especially excellent for convective weather. The localization includes a number of preformats that generate a NOWCAST using the future-cast features of WarnGen and populates the first portion of the NOWCAST with a draft short-term forecast (which requires brief editing).

Cloud Chart for Career Fairs, contributed by Steve Mendenhall (8/13/01). Are you looking for an inexpensive way to promote your office during career fairs? Download our cloud chart handout and modify it with your local office address, phone number, and Web site.

Composite Pages, contributed by Ken Mielke (8/10/01). WFO Great Falls SOO has created some composite pages which were found very useful as forecast tools and self-briefing aids.

Midnight Shift Schedule, contributed by Keith Meier (8/2/01). Over the last couple of years, we have staffed two people (a Lead Forecaster and HMT/Intern) on the midnight shift. During the winter, the first portion of the midnight shift is typically busy with the preparation of the Zones and TAFs/TWEBs needing updating during the ever changing winter weather. To provide extra forecaster coverage during the first portion of the midnight shift, we developed a shift which runs from 5:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m.

Archives, contributed by Keith Meier (8/2/01). To assist our efforts to create an archive of radar, satellite, and other observational data for use in looking back at convective events, we have configured our AWIPS triggers to archive radar data if convective warnings were issued on a given day.

"Tidbits," contributed by Keith Meier (8/2/01). With the greater difficulty in pulling everyone together to share information, I recently started sending out a weekly summary of the latest information on topics of interest or impact to the office and the staff.

Temperature Sensor, contributed by Tanja Fransen (7/19/01). Recently at WFO Glasgow, we have had problems with some of the air-conditioning units on station. This caused subsequent failures that could have been avoided with a relatively cheap system that would alert the staff in the operations area to the temperatures problems. We purchased a temperature sensor for \$39 that will audibly alert when the temperature reaches a set criteria.

Remote Seminars, contributed by John Jannuzzi (7/17/01). WFOs and RFCs periodically have short seminars, where an employee summarizes a journal article, explains findings from a local research project, provides insight on a forecast problem, etc.

Feature-Rich Tucson Station Duty Manual (SDM), contributed by Carl Gorski from WFO Tucson Station Review (7/16/01). Tucson has added several features to their SDM to make it more efficient and user friendly. A search engine has been integrated into their electronic Station Duty Manual as part of the station Intranet.

Weather Rolodex, contributed by Todd Morris (7/13/01). In an effort to help Public Service Personnel consistently answer Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) by the public and media, a quick reference guide was developed, in some cases including a slide show series, and stored on the LAN.

Web Page Meteorological Glossary, contributed by Ken Mielke (6/27/01). In an effort to help our users understand weather terms, a Web glossary was developed that allows Internet users to click on a word in displayed products and get that word's definition.

Lunch 'n Learn Seminars, contributed by Ken Mielke (6/20/01). At WFO Great Falls, we routinely hold noon-time, Lunch 'n Learn Seminars. These last 30-45 minutes and are usually led by one person on the staff.

SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION

Systems Operations Division Customer Support Survey: A Systems Operations Division Customer Support Survey has been developed. This survey is divided into Electronics Support, Facilities Support, Communications Support, and IT/Systems Support. The survey was distributed to the MICs, HICs, and ESAs. We are evaluating, with your input, how well we are meeting the field's needs/requirements. Your input is valued and will be used to assess our customer support and highlight areas where we can improve our service to the field.

Regional Maintenance Specialist (RMS) Visits: Regional Maintenance Specialist Steve Kusyj visited the National Reconditioning Center (NRC) from June 4 through June 6, 2002. The purpose of his trip was to exchange technical information and look into ways to reduce costs and better facilitate the logistics process associated with ASOS repair in Western Region.

Regional Maintenance Specialist (RMS) Jack Lauritzen attended a meeting at the Sterling Test Center in Sterling, VA on May 29 and 30, 2002. The purpose of the meeting was to provide input on lifting the ART-2 domes for replacement of the old systems with the new Telemetry Receiving Systems (TRS). He also discussed Radiosonde Replacement System (RRS) siting and deployment.

Regional Maintenance Specialist (RMS) Joe Lachacz installed a NWR transmitter at Big Rock Ridge, CA on June 10, 2002. Joe worked with WFO Monterey, CA., staff to get the new equipment installed and assisted to get an audio feed to the site as well. Joe accepted a new Crown NWR Transmitter installation at Burns Butte, Oregon.

Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS): Thirteen sites in Western Region completed installation of AWIPS Release 5.2.1. Five more sites are scheduled to complete their installation this week. AWIPS Maintenance Release 5.2.1.1 beta testing is occurring this week at four NWS sites.